

**Developmental Disabilities Services
Innovation Think Tank**
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RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

~ WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW ~

Home Supports are made up of a variety of services, supports and supervision provided to people in and around their home up to 24 hours a day.

Home Supports	
Shared Living – Individualized home supports for one or two people within the home of a contracted home provider. The home must be the residence of the home provider.	Supervised Living – Regularly scheduled or intermittent home supports provided to one or two people who live in their own home. The person usually owns or rents the home or apartment.
Staffed Living – Home supports for one or two people. 24-hour support is provided every day by agency staff. The home is often owned or rented by the provider agency.	Group Living – Home supports for three to six people. 24-hour support is provided every day by agency staff. The home is usually owned or rented by the provider agency.

FY 2017

Type of Home Support	Number of People	Percent of People	Average Per Person Cost
Shared Living	1,360	79%	\$32,493
Supervised Living	219	13%	\$14,983
Group Living	92	5%	\$98,186
Staffed Living	52	3%	\$102,545
Intermediate Care Facility	6	< 1%	\$191,751

- The number of people in home settings is small – usually just 1 – 2 people. Only a few homes have 3 – 6 people sharing a home together.
- New homes cannot support more than 4 people to live together who are not related to one another. Homes with 3 or more people must be licensed by the State of Vermont.
- Over 300 people who get supports during the day live independently in their own home.
- Over 1,000 adults (age 21 and over) live with their parents or other family member.

RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

(What is Happening Now)

- Shared Living is the most common home support option because it costs much less than other options. Home providers receive a tax-free stipend.
- Federal labor laws (minimum wage and overtime) and tax laws must be followed.
- 92% of people interviewed said they “like where they live” (National Core Indicators – NCI)
- 67% of people interviewed said they “have a way to get to places when they want to go – such as visit friends, for entertainment, to do something fun” (NCI)
- 27% of people interviewed said they “would like to live somewhere else” (NCI)

~ WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES ~

- Shared Living option is sometimes used too much because it costs less. It can be hard to find alternatives for adults who no longer need full-time support.
- Staffed Living uses hourly staff who stay overnight and only work with 1 or 2 people. This can be very expensive.
- Supervised Living uses hourly staff support. This which can be expensive. Enough people need to use hourly staff support to make it affordable.
- People feel lonely when they live alone.
- Not enough housing that is affordable and accessible, especially in rural areas.
- Limited state assistance (Section 8 vouchers) that makes rent cheaper for people who don't make much money.
- Concerns about risk, liability, personal safety and community protection.
- People with disabilities, families, providers, the state and others have different values concerning the benefits of living in a shared or intentional community where most of the people have a disability.
- Lack of transportation options (rural areas, places not on bus routes).
- Home ownership can be difficult to set up and is hard to keep going over time.
- Help for families to use deeds and trusts to give their home to their adult child.
- Hard to find money to pay the costs of moving into an apartment (rent; down payment; security deposit and setting up phone, electricity and water).

RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

~ WHAT CAN WORK WELL ~

- Using of technology, such as iPhone, iPad, pagers and electronic monitoring, to support independence and safety.
- Using transitional apartments where a person lives for 2-3 years while they learn skills to live independently while working or going to college.
- Using support workers who are on-call, professional roommates, collage-age student mentors and overnight contracted workers.
- Focusing Supervised Living supports on how to get around in the community, accessing community resources and keep safe.
- Working with state and local organizations to create new independent living options for young adults.
- Working with the state and local housing authorities to access low income apartments.
- Training home providers to support older people who have dementia and other significant medical needs.
- Facilitating home support options where a person who needs a small amount of help to live independently is matched with someone who has a home and can provide support or companionship.
- Facilitating home support options where a person who has a home and needs a small amount of help to live independently is matched with someone who needs a place to live who can provide support or companionship.
- Using support options where people live close to one another, such as in the same neighborhood, with part-time and on-call support provided by others who live nearby.
- Using support options where friends and relatives provide paid and unpaid support to a person who lives in their own home or their family's home.
- Using time-limited Shared Living options with the focus on teaching a person how to live more independently and be safe at home alone.
- Using Shared Living where a separate living space, such as a "mother-in-law" apartment or separate home on the property, is used as a person's home and where the Shared Living payment is not tax-exempt.
- Using support options that support both the needs of a person and the needs of a person's aging parent.

RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

~ *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS* ~

It might be helpful to get your ideas for the retreat ready ahead of time.

These are questions we will be talking about:

1. In your experience, what types of living situations have you found to work the best?
2. What type of home supports have you noticed were not helpful? Could have been done differently?
3. What do you think could be done to help a person live as independently as possible?
4. Have you heard of good ways to support a person in their home that we can try?
5. What creative supports or ways of doing things that you have learned about that are used in other places?